

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1630

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T USNATO 2515

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE; WARNING OF WAR

REF: A. STATE 105961

B. USNATO 2323

C. USNATO 2480

IN CONSIDERING FINAL INSTRUCTIONS TO MISSION (REF A) ON
WARNING OF WAR SECTION OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT (REF B),
WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO CONSIDER FOLLOWING:

A. WE CONCUR IN DANGER THAT ONE NUMBER INCLUDED PARA 22
COULD LEAD TO ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIMARY PLANNING CASE WHICH INVOLVES
FAR SHORTER WARNING PERIOD THAN WE ENVISAGE FOR FULL-STRENGTH
SOVIET ATTACK. WE HAVE POINTED OUT ILLUSTRATIVE RATHER THAN
PREDICTIVE NATURE OF THIS NUMBER AT NUMEROUS DRC MEETINGS ON
SUBJECT. WE FEEL THAT AN APPROPRIATE "DISCLAIMER," REFERRING
TO TOTALITY OF MC-161 DOCUMENT, AS RECOMMENDED REF C, WOULD
ADEQUATELY HANDLE THIS DANGER.

B. SHOULD WASHINGTON NONETHELESS CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL TO
PROPOSE NEW LANGUAGE, MISSION RECOMMENDS FOLLOWING AS US
SUBSTITUTE PARAGRAPHS 22 AND 23. MORE BALANCED TREATMENT OF
MC-161 AND LEVEL OF GENERALITY IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS MIGHT
SECRET

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GAIN SUPPORT FROM SOME ALLIES. HOWEVER, IF QUESTION IS REMANDED
TO DRC FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION, UK AND CHAIRMAN WILL PROBABLY
FIND FAULT WITH ITS LACK OF SPECIFICITY, AND NO REP IS LIKELY
TO PROVIDE MORE THAN PERSONAL SUPPORT PENDING INSTRUCTIONS.

MISSION CALLS ATTENTION TO LIKELIHOOD THAT WHATEVER LANGUAGE US OFFERS AS SUBSTITUTE WILL APPEAR IN BRACKETS AT MINISTERIAL MEETING, POSSIBLY WITH SOME ALLIED SUPPORT. ACCORDINGLY, IF WE INSIST ON BRACKETED LANGUAGE, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DEFEND IT AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

BEGIN TEXT:

23. NEVERTHELESS SOME BROAD BUT REALISTIC ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE TIME WHICH MAY BE AVAILABLE TO NATO COUNTRIES TO PUT THEIR FORCES AND ECONOMIES INTO A FULL WAR FOOTING ARE ESSENTIAL TO RATIONAL DEFENSE PLANNING. THE BASIS FOR THESE ASSUMPTIONS MAY BE FOUND IN THE CURRENT EDITION OF MC-161(1), WHICH SUMMARIZES WARSAW PACT MILITARY CAPABILITIES REGARDING PREPARATION FOR WAR AND THE CAPABILITY OF NATO INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITIES TO DETECT AND WARN OF SUCH PREPARATION. IT IS EVIDENT THAT READINESS OF IN-PLACE WP FORCES AND THE SPEED OF THEIR REINFORCEMENT ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE STRENGTH OF THEIR ATTACK, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE INTER-RELATED FACTORS. A WARSAW PACT CHOICE BETWEEN USING ITS CAPABILITY TO ATTACK WITH ITS READY FORCES (REQUIRING LITTLE OR NO SIGNIFICANT PREPARATION), OR TO ATTACK WITH MAXIMUM FORCES WOULD DEPEND ON THE ACTUAL SITUATION AT THE TIME AND ITS ESTIMATE OF THE READINESS OF NATO FORCES.

23. WARLIKE PREPARATIONS ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE WARSAW PACT WITHOUT A PRECEDING PERIOD OF POLITICAL TENSION, AND THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY INCREASES IN THE READINESS AND ACTIVITY OF OTHER FORCES, E.G. MARITIME FORCES, PARTICULARLY SSBNS, AND THE STRATEGIC BOMBER FORCES. SUCH PREPARATIONS WOULD BE QUICKLY DETECTABLE, AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT EVEN IN THE WORST CASE THESE INDICATORS WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE NATO WITH A BRIEF WARNING OF IMPENDING ATTACK. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE LONGEST PREPARATORY PERIOD WOULD BE THAT REQUIRED BY THE GROUND AND NAVAL FORCES IF EXTENSIVE REDEPLOYMENT WERE TO OCCUR AND IF MAXIMUM STRENGTH

(1) MC161/75 (DRAFT) THE WARSAW PACT STRENGTH AND CAPABILITIES
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AND EFFECTIVENESS WERE DESIRED. THIS COULD POSSIBLY TAKE SOME WEEKS TO ACCOMPLISH. THUS A RANGE OF WARNING POSSIBILITIES EXISTS, AND MUST BE ACCOUNTED FOR IN NATO DEFENSE PLANNING.

END TEXT.
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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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